



Battle Born

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Managing Editor/State Public Affairs Officer

Major April Conway

Editor

Sergeant First Class Erick Studenicka

Staff Writers

Sergeant Mike Getten

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Private First Class Craig Kenison
609th Engineer Company

Contributors

Specialist Victor Joecks
106th Public Affairs Detachment

Master Sergeant Gloria Odion
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Major John Strahan
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



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Bob Ulin, Publisher

Marie Lundstrom, Editor

Gloria Schein, Graphic Designer

Chris Kersbergen • Darrell George, Advertising Sales

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Battle Born is published quarterly for all current civilian employees, military members, National Guard retirees, government leaders in the state of Nevada, and civilian employers of Nevada Guard members. *Battle Born* is distributed free of charge via mail and is available at www.nevadaguard.com.

Comments and Contributions

Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Other print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Nevada National Guard military members, retirees and families are

invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail and complete mailing address and comments to:

Battle Born Magazine

State Public Affairs Office
Nevada National Guard
2460 Fairview Drive
Carson City, NV 89701

Or to erick.studenicka@us.army.mil

Publication of material is determined by available space and reader interest. The staff reserves the right to edit all material.

Battle Born

Summer 2010

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ON THE COVER: Senior Airman Lera Masini prepares for deployment to Afghanistan with the Agribusiness Development Team with agribusiness training at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, Calif., in May. Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Brigadier General Frank Gonzales and Chief Warrant Officer Dave Anderson

Whether at home or away, watch out for your fellow Soldiers, Airmen

*By Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales
Nevada Army Guard Commander*

The pace of activity remains very high for the Nevada National Guard. Great deeds have been recorded by our Soldiers and Airmen this year and we will continue to accomplish noteworthy achievements.

The homecoming ceremonies for the 221st Cavalry Squadron and the 1864th Transportation Company were memorable events. The noteworthy community involvement reflects its love for our Soldiers. Both of these organizations raised the bar on the high standards we have all come to expect. I am proud of the outstanding leadership in these units and within the state that made these deployments a success.



The 137th Military Police Company is already in Afghanistan. Next up to carry the Nevada flag into battle is the Agricultural Development Team and the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. The Soldiers of these organizations exemplify our commitment of service to the nation. Like all of our units, they continue to improve their combat skills and verify their status as key assets to the military, the state and our nation.

As the focus of the nation's military effort shifts from Iraq to Afghanistan, we must adjust to the significantly different environmental challenges. Afghanistan is a country where remote areas force our Guardsmen to work and live in zones without the same level of security that exists in Iraq. For this reason, force protection training is more important than ever.

An issue that remains of concern to Nevada's senior leadership is the suicide rate among Soldiers returning from deployments. It is every leader's responsibility to monitor the health, safety and well-being of their subordinates.

A priority of mine is to educate all Soldiers and Airmen on their potential benefits. All Guardsmen and their friends and family are encouraged to participate in programs such as Yellow Ribbon. These programs exist to assist Soldiers and Airmen as they reintegrate into society and rejoin their families, friends and civilian employers. If the programs are not used, they're worthless.

The most proven support system for Guardsmen remains fellow Soldiers and Airmen and unit leadership. Unit leaders must maintain regular contact with each Soldier and Airman to let each person know how important they are to the organization.

Our command teams strive to keep Soldiers and Airmen safe when they are in combat. When a unit returns, it's everyone's duty to keep them safe at home. ■

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Warrant officers perform vital role at home, in theater

By Chief Warrant Officer Dave Anderson
Command Chief Warrant Officer

As many of you may know, I recently volunteered and deployed to Afghanistan with the 1/221st Cavalry Squadron for a six-month tour. The deployment was an enlightening experience. The cavalry took me under their wing and treated me as one of their own.

My fellow warrant officers in the cavalry were some of the best in theater. The brigade we worked with was also filled with outstanding warrant officers. I was proud of the warrant officer representation in the combat theater and was sometimes left with the impression they are the glue holding the operations together.

I returned to work in May. While I was gone, Chief Warrant Officer Jim Baumann performed double duty by simultaneously running the state maintenance shops and



managing the state command chief warrant officer position. I want to publicly thank him for the incredible job he did while I was

gone. He is a selfless leader and epitomizes the best of the senior warrant officers in today's corps.

Baumann filled many warrant officer vacancies in the new 17th Sustainment Brigade and he assisted many previous applicants with packets and schooling. Now it is up to me to continue his lead by filling the remaining warrant officer vacancies of the state.

I'm sure many of you would make great warrant officers, so I want you to know that many positions are vacant and available. Currently, all of our vacant warrant officer positions are traditional and in Las Vegas. Listing of current warrant officer positions are listed below.

If you are interested, contact Warrant Officer Mark McAllister at (702) 289-9332 or cmac.mcallister@us.army.mil. ■

Warrant Officer Position Vacancies • Warrant Officer Position Vacancies

17th Sustainment Brigade (Las Vegas)

Food Service Tech	Signal Systems Support Tech	Information Systems Tech	Ammunition Tech
Supply Systems Tech	Petroleum Systems Tech	Property Accounting Tech	Armament Systems Officer
Automotive Maintenance Officer	Electronic Systems Officer	Mobility Officer	

240th Engineer Company (Las Vegas)

Utilities Operation and Maintenance Tech

Detachment 1, 150th (Las Vegas)

Automotive Maintenance Officer

The requirements for each warrant officer military occupational specialty can be found at <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/index.htm>.

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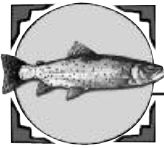
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FROM ENLISTED LEADERSHIP

Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry

SUCCESSFUL LEADERS prioritize development over promotion

By Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry
State Command Chief Master Sgt.

I recently attended the Enlisted Leadership Summit hosted by the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, James Roy. The theme of this year's summit was *Deliberately Developing Airmen and Soldiers for Global Response*.

Roy explained how leaders must develop Airmen and Soldiers by providing them with hands-on leadership, focus, training opportunities and a wide breadth of experience to ensure that we remain the most professional and highly trained military in the world.

Each Airman or Soldier plays a vital role in the success of our unit and our military. It is our inherent responsibility and obligation to see that everyone is given the means and support to develop his or her full potential.

The deliberate development of our Airmen and Soldiers must be well thought out, planned and executed. We need to make a conscious choice to be actively engaged in every stage of a young person's military career and not leave personal and professional growth to chance.

In the Air Force, it all begins with Professional Military Education. In addition to meticulous technical training, our enlisted Airmen begin formal PME early in their careers with Airman Leadership School, the primary goal of which is to develop leadership abilities and supervisory skills.

The Noncommissioned Officers Academy prepares our mid-level NCOs for increased responsibility, and the Senior NCO Academy challenges our senior enlisted Airmen to expand their leadership capabilities. The Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course allows our highest enlisted rank holders to polish and prepare their skills as leaders and enlisted force managers.

Air Force Instruction 36-2618, *The Enlisted Force Structure*, clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each level of the enlisted force. We need to ensure every

Airman understands what's expected of them now and in the future.

The first chapter of the "Little Brown Book" tells us there is a compelling need for a deliberate and common approach to enlisted force development, career progression, and the assumption of increased supervisory and leadership responsibilities.

Technical training and PME are at the core of our enlisted development, but the education process doesn't stop there. The Community College of the Air Force is the only degree-granting institution of higher learning dedicated exclusively to enlisted Airmen.

The college awards Associate in Applied Science degrees. The curriculum is designed to combine technical and professional military education with off-duty instruction at civilian institutions with the ultimate goal to provide each Airman with an opportunity to gain a degree in their respective Air Force specialty.

For years, many Airmen were asked to complete their PME, finish a CCAF degree, do community service, and become a member of an enlisted council or professional organization for the underlying reason: "So you can get a promotion."

The fact is, an Airman should complete PME because it gives you the tools to make you a better leader. One should finish a



degree because going to school broadens your horizons. You should do community service and be a member of an enlisted council because you are a role model, and you need to give back to your community and to your service. You should be a member of a professional organization because they preserve things vital to you, including benefits and compensation.

Don't do these things just to get promoted and be a square filler. The development of the whole person goes beyond filling squares; it's about developing the intangible qualities and characteristics that make one an outstanding leader. ■



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CARSON CITY – The sunlight at the end of the tunnel begins to appear at the Office of the Adjutant General as the solar module construction nears completion. Installation of the 6,400 solar panels should be complete by the end of August. The panels will produce about 1.2 megawatts of energy, reducing the Guard's monthly energy bill in addition to creating hundreds of shaded parking spots in the heat of summer. For a complete overview on the project, see the Fall 2009 issue of *Battle Born*. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka



LINCOLN, Neb. – Master Sgt. Scott Malin runs toward the finish line at the 33rd annual National Guard Marathon May 2 in Lincoln, Neb. Malin, 47, an Airman in the 152nd Intelligence Squadron, finished the 26.2-mile course in 3 hours, 57 minutes. Malin was the top finisher for the Nevada Guard team which placed 37th among National Guard teams. A record number of 195 National Guardsmen from across the nation competed in the race. See page 27 for details. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka



LAS VEGAS – Chief Master Sgt. Robert Taulman and his wife, Rebecca, take time for a photo at the Governor's Ball held at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas in May. More than 700 people attended the ball, making it one of the largest social events in Nevada Guard history. Distinguished guests included Gov. Jim Gibbons, Fallon Naval Air Station Commander Rear Adm. John Miller and Nellis Air Force Base Commander Maj. Gen. Stanley Kresge. One of the highlights of the night occurred when Gibbons joined the band for an impromptu musical session. For more on the ball and the leadership symposium, see page 19. Photo: Staff Sgt. Rebecca Palmer



BAGHDAD, Iraq – Although he is a resident of Las Vegas, for Lt. Col. Terry Conder of Joint Force Headquarters, the heat index in Iraq is still a new experience. Conder is serving as executive officer and public affairs officer for the Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command this summer and has been the spokesman for the command during several high-profile events. Conder said this heat index sign can be found near the “Victory over America” palace in Baghdad. Photo: Courtesy of Special Operations Component Command



KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq – Deployed with the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Staff Sgt. Matthew Hoff of the 152nd Airlift Wing participates in international firefighting training in northern Iraq on May 28. The Airmen in the squadron and Iraqi Air Force firefighters have trained together for about two years in preparation for the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq. Hoff is also a full-time mechanical engineering student at the University of Nevada, Reno. He works part time at the engineering firm Lumos & Associates and part time as a fitness coach at Battle Born Crossfit. Photo: Master Sgt. Martie Moore, 506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Tech. Sgt. Michelle Cochran conducts briefings of forward deploying Airmen while working for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia in early June. When not deployed, Cochran is in the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron and provides administrative support for the Nevada Guard's Counterdrug Task Force. Photo: Courtesy of 379th Air Expeditionary Wing



AFGHANISTAN – Lt. Col. Kris Kirkland meets with local children north of Bagram while on a mission to survey a bridge in need of repair following the spring runoff. “They were a little standoffish at first, but it didn’t take long until they were full of questions about school supplies and candy,” Kirkland said. He is a brigade aviation officer with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain). Photo: Courtesy of 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Cav's Deutch remembered as top Soldier, deputy



Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks salutes Savonya Deutch, 5, after presenting her with the U.S. flag during the service for her father, Staff Sgt. Ian Deutch, on May 1 in Las Vegas. Photo: Courtesy of K.M. Cannon, Las Vegas Review Journal



PAHRUMP — Flags across Nevada were at half-staff on May 1 to mark the passing and memorial services of Staff Sgt. Ian Deutch, a forward observer for the 1/221st Cavalry and a Nye County sheriff's deputy, who was killed in the line of duty with the sheriff's department April 26 during a gun fight in Pahrump.

Deutch, 27, was a decorated combat veteran with an Army Meritorious Service medal, the Combat Action badge, the Afghanistan Campaign medal with campaign star, and numerous other awards. He was a 10-year veteran of the Nevada Army Guard and had recorded several years with the sheriff's department.

Nevada students meet Sunburst challenge, graduate

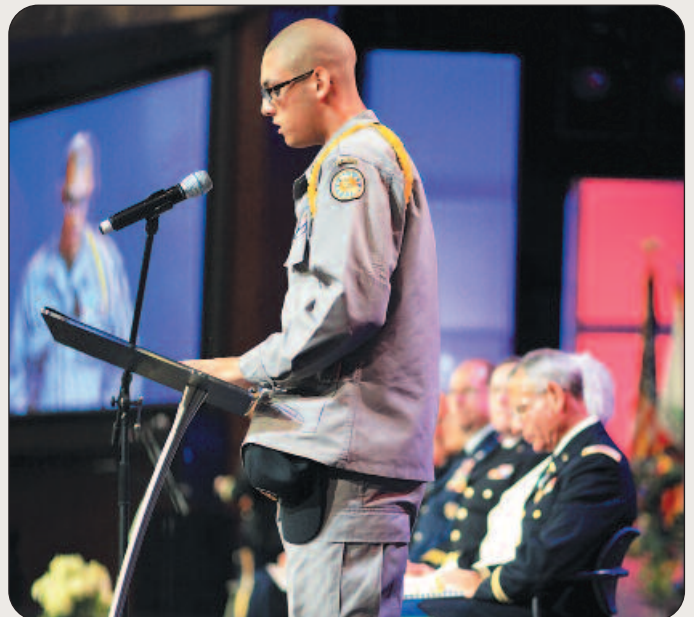
LOS ALIMITOS, Calif. — One hundred and thirty-seven students demonstrated a commitment to improve their lives and build a foundation for their future when they graduated from the Sunburst Youth Academy here on June 11. Nine of the graduates were from Nevada and the honor graduate, Joel Braxton, was from Las Vegas.

For the past 16 years, the Nevada National Guard has supported and promoted National Guard programs that give at-risk youth the opportunity to better themselves and receive a second chance to fulfill their educational goals.

The Sunburst Youth Academy is a joint venture of the California and Nevada National Guard. This was the first Nevada class to graduate from the Sunburst program and only the fifth class ever to complete the course established in 2007. From 1994-2007, Nevada partnered with the Arizona National Guard.

In addition to Braxton, the other graduating students included Brandon Bathgate, Krystal Casa, Jordan Cecil, Richard Chaltas, Daisy Hernandez, Andrew Holmes, Victor Palacios and Robert Sanders.

It is unclear whether the state of Nevada will have funds to support additional classes this fall.



Honor graduate Joel Braxton of Las Vegas addresses attendees at the Sunburst Youth Academy graduation ceremony June 11 in Los Alimitos, Calif. Braxton was one of nine Nevada students to successfully meet the Sunburst challenge this semester and graduate from the National Guard-sponsored program for at-risk students.

Photo: Maj. John Strahan



The Nevada National Guard received approval from the Nevada State Legislature this spring to purchase a portion of the University of Nevada, Reno's, Fire Science Academy in Carlin for about \$10 million. The approval allows the Nevada Guard to purchase and remodel two buildings at the facility and construct a third building. Photo: Courtesy of University of Nevada, Reno

Nevada Guard set to add Carlin facility

CARLIN – The Nevada Guard is set to add another modern training facility to its stockpile of resources following the State Legislature's approval of the sale of the University of Nevada, Reno's, Fire Science Academy to the Nevada Guard on April 29.

The university is set to sell the Carlin facility for about \$10 million.

According to facilities management officer Capt. Dan Thielen, the approval will allow the Nevada Guard to purchase and remodel two buildings at the facility and construct a third building. As a result of the purchase, the university will give all of the buildings at the facility and 420 acres to the state of Nevada.

21 Soldiers graduate equal opportunity leaders course

LAS VEGAS – With the goal of creating and maintaining a healthy working environment as a top priority, 21 western National Guard Soldiers graduated from the equal opportunity leaders course in Las Vegas in June.

The students included both officers and enlisted Soldiers from Nevada, California and Idaho. Col. Peter Menicucci, commander of the 17th Sustainment Brigade, served as the opening speaker. Menicucci reminded the students that a unit's working climate and mutual respect levels directly affect Guard retention.

The 60-hour course was designed to prepare individuals to perform duties as an equal opportunity leader. An EOL works at the company or battalion level and promotes the command's equal opportunity program.

Additional duties of an EOL include conducting ethnic observances and receiving EO complaints from unit members.

The 17th Sustainment Brigade hosted the course and received support from the 421st Regional Training Institute during the course at the Las Vegas Readiness Center. Graduating students received 60 hours of educational credit through the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

For information on the next course, call retired Col. Alicia Nyland at (775) 348-5845.

Stark new commander for 152nd Operations Group

RENO – Lt. Col. Karl Stark became the new commander for the 152nd Operations Group on June 12 during a change of command ceremony presided over by Col. David Snyder, commander of the 152nd Airlift Wing. Stark previously served as the deputy executive assistant to the Chief of National Guard Bureau.

The outgoing operations group commander, Col. Michael Williams, is now the wing's vice commander.

Civil engineers volunteer at Tahoe

LAKE TAHOE – The Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Civil Engineer Squadron fulfilled one of its community volunteer efforts in May. Many times per year, the squadron participates in maintaining and restoring the buildings at the Tallac Historic Site owned by the U.S. Forest Service. In May, the squadron completed roofing the Pope House estate and reinstalled the Baldwin estate's weather vane.

Support services website launched

ARLINGTON, Va. – Nevada National Guard Airmen and Soldiers now have a new tool to locate and contact a variety of support services on the Internet. The National Guard Bureau Joint Services Support website lists critical Soldier, Airmen and family resources that are locally available.

The site is easy to navigate and open to both Guard members and their families. Simply visit the site and create an account to begin your search.

Visitors can view the site and learn about the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, National Guard family programs, sexual assault prevention and response, psychological health programs and the Warrior Support Program. Each of the listed program pages contains information, event schedules and local contact numbers.

For information on the programs, go to <http://www.jointservicessupport.org>.

Nevada Guard receives award on Arbor Day

CARSON CITY – Col. Mike Williams accepted the George Washington Ferris award on behalf of the Nevada National Guard on Arbor Day, April 30, during a ceremony in Carson City.

The Shade Tree Council presented the award to the Nevada Guard for its contribution of 40 trees to local schools. The trees were removed from the parking lot at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City to make room for new solar panel construction.

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DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

Nevada's Ag Team sees growth opportunity in Afghanistan's future

By Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter
Agribusiness Development Team

RENO – The Nevada National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team is in position to sow the seeds for a growth spurt in Afghanistan's economy this year.

Nevada's ADT deployed in July for a historic mission to Afghanistan to help the war-torn country rebuild its agriculture infrastructure. Before its departure, the team trained for months in several agricultural fields in order to acquire the skills necessary for a successful mission.

The team includes more than 60 Soldiers and Airmen. Before leaving the state, the team members were instructed in the basic combat tasks needed for deployment. They also completed additional training geared toward their specialized occupations.

Members of the team's security forces focused on marksmanship skills, while the agriculture experts focused on cooperative training with several private companies and California and Nevada schools.

The team has 11 agriculture specialists who were recruited based on their backgrounds in irrigation, pest management, animal husbandry, forestry and veterinary science. About half the unit is a security force for the team.

Since the ADT's formation in March, teams of Nevada Guardsmen have traveled to Southern California, Reno and Churchill County to become more familiar with a number of agriculture-related jobs.

One of the most valuable ties the team formed during its pre-deployment training was the reach-back program established in conjunction with California Polytechnic University, Pomona, and the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as other schools. Personnel at those organizations will remain in contact with the ADT members throughout the deployment to provide remote assistance on agriculture issues.

"The reach-back program is a huge resource that will remain available to us throughout our mission," said Lt. Col. Bart O'Toole, a plant and animal specialist. "If we ever get stuck and need more information, we can just write, call or send the schools video and photos, and we can receive



Lt. Col. Bart O'Toole and 1st Sgt. Shane Jensen of the Agribusiness Development Team examine the health of a honeybee hive May 20 at Cal Poly Pomona in Pomona, Calif., in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan. The bees had been tamed with smoke before the photo, allowing Jensen to use a bare hand while examining the hive.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter

answers in a matter of minutes."

UNR is one of the most important reach-back partners the team has established. The University of Nevada cooperative extension has vast knowledge on a variety of topics the team is likely to encounter because of the similarity of the terrain and fauna in Nevada and Afghanistan.

According to Bob Dickens, UNR director of government relations, the school has a history of working closely with the Nevada National Guard. "Nevada National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are part of us on so many levels, so it's personal to us," he said. "Many of them go to school here. They are our students. They are our neighbors. They are our community. We're honored to help any way we can."

The Nevada Agribusiness Team is scheduled to return home in July 2011.

Airmen support Shadow Harvest system

More than 40 Nevada Airmen departed in June to support the Shadow Harvest system in Southwest Asia this summer.

The integrated, multi-sensor system is in development and will provide detailed imagery support to combat operations officials on the ground.

The data will provide unique and timely information to save American, Afghan and allied lives in Southwest Asia.

This deployment is a continuation of a 2009 mission that began in California.

Other organizations participating in the mission include the Kentucky, California and Georgia Air National Guards, the active duty Air Force and the Navy.

Aviation Soldiers remain in Haiti for summer

Soldiers in the Nevada Army National Guard's B Company, 1/189th Aviation, departed for Haiti in May from the Army Aviation Support Facility to begin airlift support for the devastated country throughout the summer as Haiti continues to recover from its massive January earthquake. The company sent about a dozen of its Soldiers and a CH-47 Chinook helicopter to the island nation to assist with relief supply and cargo airlift missions, troop movements, and medical missions transporting doctors and nurses.

Rotations of Soldiers from the unit will continue through September.

Those aviation Soldiers were joined by more than 100 Soldiers from multiple Nevada Army Guard units in Haiti for two weeks in June. They were on annual training and assisted with humanitarian and security efforts.

The 485th Military Police Company in Reno sent 90 of its Soldiers. They were joined by 10 soldiers from 72nd Military Police Company headquartered in Las Vegas, about 15 Soldiers from the 609th Engineer Company in Fallon, and about a half dozen Soldiers from the 593rd Transportation Company in Reno.

About 500 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the nation remain in Haiti assisting the country's citizens.

See related article on page 15.

137th reaches Afghanistan en route to final post

The 137th Law and Order Detachment successfully completed its pre-deployment training in New Mexico and reached Afghanistan in mid-June. The unit is in transit toward its final post.

The unit deployed in April and is set to perform basic law enforcement duties through 2011 in a NATO-controlled region of Afghanistan.

Look for an update on the 137th in the fall issue of *Battle Born*. ■

PEST – a four-letter word to Air Guard exterminator

By Sgt. Mike Getten,
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – PEST is a four-letter word to Staff Sgt. Damien Falconer of the 152nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

As the lone pest management specialist in the Nevada Air Guard, it's his job to eliminate all of the creepy crawly nuisances on the Nevada Air National Guard base.

It's important that Falconer keep all pests away from equipment and personnel. He continually works to eliminate insects, rodents, weeds and an occasional bird from the base's environment to prevent such pests from calling base equipment and facilities their permanent home.

He doesn't consider a young Airman who constantly bothers a supervisor a real pest.

"A pest is a plant or animal that's out of place," Falconer said. "We currently don't have a lot of problems with pests on base. My biggest problem here is wasps, which can build a new home overnight. But those are even a small issue."

Falconer spent 10 years in food service before cross training into pest management last year.

"When I first joined, I just wanted a quick school and to enlist," Falconer said. "About a year ago, I found I wasn't having much fun in food service anymore and just wanted a change. I began looking for something else and discovered the pest control job and decided it could be interesting. Pest control is a big piece of food service, so I thought this would be a good fit."

During his initial training period, Falconer received classroom and field instruction in how to conduct surveys for and identify pests and how to select and apply proper management techniques to control or eliminate infestations.

"We always look for the least impact on the environment," Falconer said. "If a frightening device or other non-pollutant can be used, it is the preferred method."

Working with pesticides can be dangerous to the environment as well as individuals. Falconer is required to obtain state hazardous materials handling certification. The Air Force also requires Falconer to attend regular military certification training at various air bases throughout the United States.

"Most people don't realize the stuff you buy at the hardware store can pollute the environment if used improperly," Falconer said. "We are trained to properly mix the chemicals as well as properly apply the soup."

According to Master Sgt. Pat Speth, one of the squadron supervisors, Falconer must stay on his toes even when there are no pest invasions on base.

"Falconer has one of those jobs where he must keep his skills sharp at all times," Speth said. "Then when Falconer deploys, he is the subject matter expert and must be ready to deal with any type of situation."

Falconer currently holds a level three certification in pest control management, which he says is about the equivalent of an apprentice. He expects to attend his next school late this year and become a journeyman.

In the civil engineer squadron, Falconer falls under the utilities section. Like many other Airmen in the section, he cross trains in other utility-related jobs and spends a significant part of each drill working on other tasks besides pest control.

"I spend most drills helping the utilities Airmen wherever I can," Falconer said. "But there are those times during drill I receive a call to take care of a wasp infestation or some other nuisance." ■

Editor's note: Mice in the photo were not air base pests. They were borrowed for illustration purposes and safely returned to the pet store.



Staff Sgt. Damien Falconer of the 152nd Civil Engineer Squadron is the lone pest management specialist in the Nevada Air Guard. It's his job to eliminate all of the creepy crawly nuisances on the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

Black belt Morrow chops excess, waste in Nevada Guard

By Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Although unlikely he'll ever become an expert in karate, jiu-jitsu or kendo, retired Nevada Guard Col. Jon Morrow holds a black belt in an art that includes chopping, slicing and cutting. His aim is not to defeat an opponent, but to reduce waste of time, money and energy, and make processes more efficient and effective.

Morrow, former Army Guard chief of staff, is the first person to graduate from the National Guard Bureau's Lean Six Sigma program and attain black belt status. That status signifies that Morrow has reached the top level and completed advanced training within the National Guard program.

According to Morrow, the Lean Six Sigma program was initiated by the National Guard to ensure continuous process improvements. The program is a combination of lean manufacturing, a production practice that aims to eliminate waste, and Six Sigma, a business strategy that seeks to refine business processes. Within the Nevada Guard, the Lean Six Sigma program strives to improve Soldier and Airman readiness and guarantee the efficient use of all Guard resources in the state, including time management.

"Lean Six Sigma is a program started by the National Guard Bureau to ensure continuous process improvement," said Morrow, now the deputy director of continuous process improvement for the Nevada National Guard. "Continuous process improvement is important because it allows an organization to reduce its time to complete its ongoing tasks and missions; it improves the quality of service, and it reduces costs.

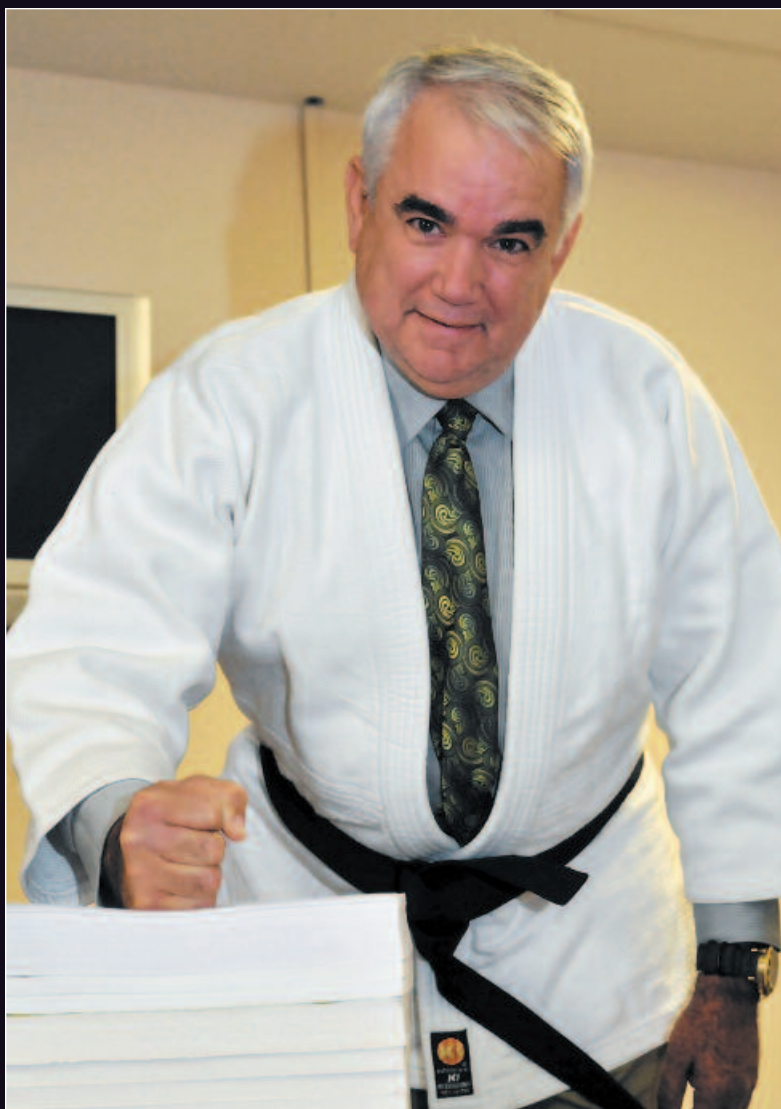
"Lean Six Sigma combines some of the best aspects of improvement programs in the Air and Army Guard with some of the best business practices from industry."

Morrow said two recent examples of the improvement process include an increase in Airman readiness by streamlining medical reviews and a reduction in energy inefficiency at the Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno. The successful results from those projects helped Morrow reach black belt status.

"Lean Six Sigma is used to analyze what is positive about a process and adds value, and what is superfluous about a process and doesn't add value," Morrow said. "We focus on points in a process where time, energy and money are spent but do not add to the end value. We then find ways to eliminate those unneeded expenditures."

Unknown to the majority of Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen, the organization has an office devoted to continuous process improvement. Morrow is one of the office's two staffers; the other is retired Chief Master Sgt. Ken Bunker. The office opened its doors late in September 2009.

Morrow and Bunker strive to keep the Nevada Guard on course to meet National Guard, Army, Air Force and Department of Defense strategic goals. The result of their analysis usually assists every Soldier and Airman. The secondary result is often economic savings for the National Guard.



Retired Col. Jon Morrow, deputy director of continuous process improvement for the Nevada National Guard, works to chop, slice and cut excess and waste within the organization. He is the first graduate of the National Guard's Lean Six Sigma course to achieve black belt certification. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten. Jiu-jitsu ghee courtesy of Alexandre Garcia Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, Reno.

"We are constantly trying to achieve a more effective process to meet the customer's needs," said Bunker, currently the director of the continuous process improvement office. "The Nevada Guard's customers include every Soldier and Airman, everyone associated with the Nevada Military Department, the state of Nevada, the military departments we work with and every citizen in this state.

"Our office looks to eliminate the error factor in all of the moving parts and pieces of a process that takes time and can lead to errors. Then we also work to eliminate any waste from a process."

Morrow and Bunker receive direction from the Nevada Guard senior leadership. Currently, Bunker is analyzing the recruit sustainment program; Morrow is analyzing an energy-efficient work schedule and an Air Guard personnel staffing model. ■



Staff Sgt. Carlos Esparza, left, and Sgt. Jake Boholst, members of the 92nd Civil Support Team survey squad, test the acidity of a liquid leaking from a barrel to determine if the substance is a hazardous chemical May 20 near Boulder City. Nevada's civil support team was one of the lead agencies in the Desert Torch training exercise conducted in the Las Vegas metropolitan area May 18-21. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

*By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

LAS VEGAS – The potential for chaos – simulated this time – was in the air. Radiation and chemicals were leaking from a warehouse near Boulder City; a recreation center near the Las Vegas Motor Speedway lay in ruins; people were injured, and two hospitals were downwind of dangerous airborne contaminants.

The Nevada National Guard's 92nd Civil Support Team undeniably had its hands full following two simulated 6.9 magnitude earthquakes May 18-21 during the Desert Torch exercise it co-hosted with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department.

Civil support teams from Colorado, Utah and Arizona all participated in the training, and Hawaii and West Virginia sent teams to observe and evaluate.

In the simulation, a 6.9 earthquake struck the Las Vegas Valley May 18. The quake caused a massive rubble pile near the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Immediately after arriving at the speedway site, a survey team from Colorado

92nd CST

unshaken by Desert Torch earthquakes

entered and located potential hazards. They then crawled through an opening in the rubble into a confined space.

Nevada's survey team then suited up to identify and mitigate the chemical leaks Colorado had discovered.

Nevada and Colorado Soldiers and Airmen then combined to form one team that worked to control a confined space leak. Near the end of the day, the survey team used rigging techniques and team skills to lower one member down into a confined space.

The scenario was reset May 20, and Nevada's CST swapped locations with the Utah and Arizona teams. Nevada's CST moved to a site near Boulder City with the Colorado team and the Las Vegas Metro All-hazard Regional Multi-agency Operational Response unit.

At a simulated earthquake-ravaged warehouse full of chemicals and radiation-producing material, the Nevada survey team suited up with a team from Las Vegas Metro ARMOR and entered the scenario's danger zone to identify and mitigate suspected contamination. They neutralized the radiological hazard with specialized blankets from Colorado's 8th CST.

About 50 miles separated the two exercise staging points. The action took place in two disparate locations for an important reason. "The distance between the exercise sites enlarges the response area," said Maj. David Sellen, commander of the 92nd CST. "With a widespread response area, we simulate a realistic scenario. That increases the level of complexity for our communications and operations staff and equipment."

The Nevada Guard's Joint Operations Center in Carson City also monitored the exercise and remained in contact with all of the participants.

The exercise planners aimed to make the training as realistic as possible. Civil support teams from various states were intermingled to simulate a real disaster requiring interstate assistance. The teams brought all of their equipment to meet any potential scenario.

"This was an intense exercise for every team involved," said Capt. Jackie Lyle,

the 92nd's nuclear medicine officer and lead planner for the exercise. "This was a broad spectrum exercise, and it covered nearly every collective task and supporting individual task to train our teams."

Several officials said it was important to work with teams from other agencies and regions.

"It was great to work with combined teams," said Staff Sgt. Chris Schmitt, of Colorado's decontamination team. "The unfamiliar team you are suddenly working with adds a realistic aspect to the exercise. In a real-world situation, you will not always be out with your normal teammates."

"The exercise was a little tricky," said Officer Bryan Hartshorn of the Las Vegas Metro ARMOR unit. "We are accustomed to working with Nevada's CST. The ARMOR unit is not as familiar with the CSTs from the other states. That was part of the goal of this exercise, to help us refine our procedures with other CSTs."

The 92nd CST continually hones its skills. In mid June, the team participated in Desert Breeze, an exercise conducted partially at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno. Civil support teams from Arizona, California, the Nevada Air Guard 152nd's First Responder unit and several civilian agencies also participated. The training focused on responding to a major terrorist attack.

Nevada's civil support team is one of 57 in the nation. Every state and territory has a team; three states have two teams.

Each CST is federally funded yet remains state controlled. A CST consists of 22 Soldiers and Airmen. Every member of the team receives certification training on hazardous material handling and confined-space operations.

"Each civil support team provides military support to civilian authorities. The teams assess, assist, advise and identify any type of hazard associated with a man-made or natural disaster," said Lyle.

For more information, call Sellen at (702) 523-0574 or Sgt. 1st Class Ulises Pierluissi at (702) 643-4296 or cell phone (702) 241-3063. ■

Haiti annual training: real world accomplishment

By Pfc. Craig Kenison, 609th Engineer Company

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Although the 120 Nevada Guard Soldiers who participated in the New Horizons annual training missions knew they would be working in a devastated country, every Guardsman providing assistance was left amazed and in disbelief at the destruction leveled on this Caribbean country.

The 120 Soldiers were here June 11-25 on annual training assisting with humanitarian and security efforts. The National Guard was set to provide Haiti with about 500 Guardsmen through the summer to help in the nation's recovery.

The 485th Military Police Company in Reno sent about 90 Soldiers. They were joined by 10 Soldiers from 72nd Military Police Company headquartered in Las Vegas, 15 from the 609th Engineer Company from Fallon, and about a half dozen from the 593rd Transportation Company in Reno.

Many of the Soldiers provided security for doctors, nurses and engineers as they worked with Haiti's citizens and infrastructure.

The epicenter of the 7.0 January earthquake was in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, but the majority of the Nevada Army Soldiers were stationed in Gonaives, about 95 miles north of Port-au-Prince. Large numbers of people moved

from Port-au-Prince to Gonaives after being uprooted from their homes by the earthquake.

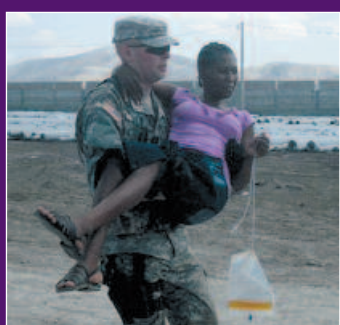
The Soldiers had to deal quickly with both culture shock and the devastation.

"Until you get on the ground and experience this country first hand, you can't understand the difference between the expectation and reality," said 1st Lt. Robert Kolvet, a platoon leader with the 485th Military Police Company.

Soldiers who participated in annual training last year in the Dominican Republic – on the same island as Haiti – still noted a major difference between the two countries.

"Although we were on the same island, the annual training in Haiti proved to be completely different from the Dominican Republic," said Spc. Thomas Green from Reno. "Haiti seemed more real world. The people genuinely need our help. These are the types of scenario we train for, so it was great to see the units work so well together and apply the training we learned back at home"

Spc. Carolina Dealba from the 485th Military Police Company said annual training such as the two weeks in Haiti provides Soldiers difficult, real-world experiences without the threat of combat that help them prepare for missions on the battle field. ■



Pfc. Lucas Six of the 485th Military Police Company assists a young woman while on annual training in Gonaives, Haiti. Six was securing the front gate at a medical site when he noticed the woman on the ground, unable to walk and in dire need of medical attention. Six carried her to the local medical clinic for assistance. Photo: Spc. Thomas Green

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New classmates: RTI Pre-Command Course includes Airmen, spouses

By Maj. Jeff Johnson
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – Leaders attending the Nevada Army Guard's Pre-Command Course in April welcomed some new classmates for the first time. The 1/421st Regional Training Institute class was the first to include Airmen and spouses in the instruction.

The course was historically limited to Army Guard company commanders and first sergeants or officers and senior enlisted Soldiers preparing to become commanders and first sergeants.

Maj. Alvin Bolton, administrative and personnel officer for the 1/421st RTI, explained why spouses were now integral students in the course.

"Spousal involvement has been incorporated into the course to help the spouses realize the important role they play as part of the command team and how they can contribute to a unit's success," Bolton said.



Katherine LaSpina and her husband, 1st Sgt. Joseph LaSpina of the 100th Quartermaster unit, share a laugh during the Pre-Command Course April 23-25 at the 1/421st Regional Training Institute. Katherine LaSpina was one of the first spouses to participate in the PCC that included spouses and Airmen for the first time. Photo: Maj. Jeff Johnson

The Airman who attended the course, an instructor from the Office of the Inspector General, was invited to participate when he expressed interest in the course. Bolton said Air Guard leaders are welcome to attend the PCC in the future.

The PCC, with its strong emphasis on building command teams, has been a staple in the Army Guard education of company-level leaders for decades.

Bolton said the curriculum is continuously reviewed and improved to ensure that

participants receive the most up-to-date and relevant information.

The students who went through the course in April reviewed a number of basic leadership topics including medical readiness, personnel, logistics, family readiness, training management and an introduction to Web-based unit management tools.

"The course has evolved to meet the needs of commanders, first sergeants and their family members," Bolton said.

The portion of the training that was devoted to the spouses focused on developing family member understanding of unit family readiness groups, military benefits, family communications and an introduction to the concept of the "spouse battle-mind."

"It is good to be learning about the family readiness group now instead of when the unit is set to deploy," said Katherine LaSpina, the wife of 100th Quartermaster 1st Sgt. Joseph LaSpina. "The family support resources have changed and gotten broader."

Lt. Col. Joanne Farris, 1/421st commander, was ecstatic to see the new faces in the course.

"I am excited and thrilled that the new commanders and first sergeants brought their spouses to the Pre-Command Course to share valuable information and to begin to understand their role as part of the command team," Farris said.

For information on the PCC or the 1/421st RTI, call Bolton at (775) 677-5212 or write to alvin.bolton@us.army.mil.

For information about Nevada National Guard family readiness groups or the family programs office, call toll free (866) 699-3128. ■

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Soldiers from B Company, 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, work on a satellite transportable trailer, part of the battalion's new WIN-T equipment, at Camp Cobra during the battalion's signal exercise Mercury Rising 2010 on June 12. The battalion is set to deploy to Afghanistan in 2011.

Photo: Spc. Victor Joecks



Signal Soldiers gain confidence, experience during historic exercise

By Spc. Victor Joecks, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

LAS VEGAS – The 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion prepared for its upcoming 2011 deployment to Afghanistan by conducting the largest signal training exercise in the history of the Nevada National Guard here June 1-20. More than 450 Soldiers in the 422nd ESB participated in the exercise, which served as annual training.

To simulate the conditions they will likely face in Afghanistan, Soldiers worked long hours, had limited access to showers, and worked at six disparate locations: the Clark County Armory, Las Vegas Readiness Center, Henderson Armory, Camp Cobra at Nellis Air Force Base and two satellite sites at the CCA. The battalion is likely to be similarly scattered in Afghanistan as it will provide communication services to several different locations within its area of operations.

Coined “Mercury Rising 2010,” the signal exercise was also the first collective training exercise conducted with the battalion's new communication equipment, the Warfighter Information Network – Tactical. The 422nd ESB received the WIN-T last year and is the first National Guard battalion set to use the WIN-T in Afghanistan.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Aragon oversaw the successful setup of the battalion's WIN-T equipment.

“We’ve put in all the services the warfighters will require for their mission during this annual training,” Aragon said. “We’ve accomplished a lot. Now we’re capable of putting in a full battalion network.”

The 422nd ESB is capable of providing communication services to as many as 30 different locations, which are commonly referred

to as nodes. During the annual training, the Soldiers established 14 nodes.

Working with new equipment wasn’t the only challenge the 422nd ESB faced during training. With its companies located in Reno, Las Vegas and Casa Grande, Ariz., this AT marked the first time the battalion had physically trained together in 2010. Despite working with many new faces, the Soldiers meshed well.

“The different companies worked together surprisingly well,” said Sgt. Mark Dorsett, a command post node team chief based in Las Vegas. “We all have a mission to do and we get it done. There’s a lot of camaraderie within the battalion.”

The battalion commander, Lt. Col. Jeff Hansen, attributed the 422nd’s successful training to its motivated and skilled Guardsmen.

“In our battalion, we’ve got a lot of young Soldiers who are information technology savvy, very technically competent and able to learn complex technologies very quickly,” Hansen said. “We have good leaders at all levels of the organization. During this exercise, our Soldiers gained a lot of confidence, both in their equipment and in their own abilities.”

The 422nd ESB’s training will have practical benefits for Nevadans as well. When the battalion returns, the battalion’s communication equipment will be incorporated into Nevada’s emergency communications plan.

Aragon said the training exercise definitely helped the 422nd ESB prepare for Afghanistan.

“We’ve still got a few phases to go, but the lessons learned from this AT will prepare us for our deployment,” he said. ■

Nevada Guardsmen test mettle in Soldier, NCO of the Year regional competitions

By Spc. Victor Joecks, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

WAIMANALO, Hawaii – When Spc. Ivan Gonzalez and Staff Sgt. Larry Harlan qualified for the Region 7 Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competitions last fall, they knew they were in for a battle against the toughest Army National Guard warriors in the West this spring.

But Gonzalez, 21, from the 72nd Military Police Company, and Harlan, 28, from the 140th Military Police Company, proved they belonged among the region's best as they went toe-to-toe with



Nevada Soldier of the Year Spc. Ivan Gonzalez jumps over a log barrier during the obstacle course event at the 2010 Region 7 Soldier of the Year competition on May 1 in Hawaii. Gonzalez went on to finish seventh overall in the competition. Photo by Spc. Victor Joecks

other top Soldiers from the region in Hawaii April 30-May 2. In the end, Harlan captured third place and Gonzalez finished seventh. Both reside in Las Vegas.

The competition was hosted by the Hawaii Army Guard at Bellows Air Station and Schofield Barracks on Oahu. The competition featured the top Soldier and NCO from Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

The contest consisted of seven events over three days to test the physical strength, mental abilities and Soldiering skills of the 16 competitors. The Soldiers could receive a maximum of 50 points in each event, including an Army physical fitness test, a weapons qualification range, a written test, day land navigation, five Army warrior tasks, night land navigation and an obstacle course combined with a ruck march.

An appearance board was valued at 150 points – a Guardsman could potentially earn 25 points for the wear of the military uniform, 25 points for military bearing and 100 points for correctly answering all of the board's questions.

Every aspect of the competition was crammed into three very full days, which pushed each Soldier to the brink of exhaustion.

Sgt. Maj. Kate Arizo, event organizer from the Hawaii Guard, said the demanding schedule was intentional.

"Even though the Soldiers train at home and feel they're prepared, once they get into a competition and experience the stress of it all, that's where you see the best warriors emerge," Arizo said.

Gonzalez and Harlan began training for the event after they won the Nevada state competitions last fall. They spent the two weeks prior to the Region 7 contest practicing land navigation, physical training, shooting weapons and preparing for the board and written test. Gonzalez said the additional training helped.

"I was a little tired from all the training, but I was a lot more prepared for the regional competition than for the state competition," Gonzalez said.

Harlan said preparation was essential for a top result.

"Focus and dedication to training is key for any future Nevada competitors," Harlan said. "Participation at this level is a big time commitment. You can't just come in here and wing it or give 50 percent of your effort. You have to put 100 percent into the competition.

"You have to realize you're representing the state of Nevada, and that's a pretty big deal."

When the results were tallied, Spc. Ryan Teter of Colorado won Soldier of the Year, and Staff Sgt. Michael East of California won NCO of the Year.

Although there were many possible tourist diversions in Hawaii, Nevada's competitors remained focused on the task at hand.

"We got to see some places when we landed, but for the most part, it was all about the competition," Gonzalez said.

Harlan said representing his home state marked one of the highlights of his life.

"Representing the state of Nevada is the greatest honor I've had so far in my military career," Harlan said. ■

BALL AND SYMPOSIUM

DOUBLE BILL PROVES POPULAR

By Maj. John Strahan, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs,
and Tech. Sgt. Wendy Yada, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Double billing the Nevada National Guard's leadership symposium and Governor's Ball on the same day proved to be perfect complementary events as both functions enjoyed healthy attendance here May 1.

The featured speaker at the leadership symposium was retired Gen. John Abizaid, former commander of the U.S. Central Command.

Abizaid recounted experiences from his 34 years in the Army. Much of that time was spent in the combat zones of Grenada, Lebanon, Kurdistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. When

he retired, he was the longest serving commander at Central Command.

He emphasized the importance of American causes in Southwest Asia and stressed that the enemy will not stop and will never walk away.

"It's tough on you and your family, but what you are doing is so important, and it's made a difference," he said. "Failure to confront problems now will make it more difficult to combat those problems in the future."

Abizaid ended by sincerely thanking Nevada Airmen, Soldiers and their families for their service.

"The flag is worth fighting for," he said. "If you don't do it, no one will."

The Nevada Guard leaders of tomorrow were also featured during the symposium as the Army Guard commissioned several new second lieutenants who had successfully completed Officer Candidate School.

Later that evening, the Governor's Ball at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas maintained its reputation as a "must do" event. The venue provided exceptional service for more than 700 guests at the event.

"This was the largest military ball in Nevada history," said Maj. Jerome Guerrero, executive officer for the adjutant general. "Many people said this was the best ball ever."

Distinguished guests included Gov. Jim Gibbons; Rear Adm. John Miller, commander of Fallon Naval Air Station; and Maj. Gen. Stanley Kresge, commander of Nellis Air Force Base. Opening remarks were made by Gibbons and Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, Adjutant General of the Nevada National Guard.

"The South Point staff is to be credited for preparing an excellent meal with outstanding service," Guerrero said. "This year's food was absolutely the best of any previous ball."

Music was provided by Trip, a rock and roll band that played a mix of top-40 hits and classic rock songs of the past 30 years.

The music received a boost when Gibbons picked up a bass guitar and joined the band on stage for four songs.

The right mix of friends, food and music at the Governor's Ball, in conjunction with the important messages and topics that were discussed at the leadership symposium, combined to make May 1 a truly memorable day in Nevada Guard history. ■



Future leaders of the Nevada National Guard were on center stage May 1 during the leadership symposium as the graduates of the Army Guard's Officer Candidate School Class 56 received their lieutenant's bars from Lt. Col. Joanne Farris, right, commander of the 1st Battalion, 421st Regiment Training Institute.

Photo: 2nd Lt. Jason Yuhasz

"The flag is worth fighting for. If you don't do it, no one will."

– Gen. John Abizaid

HOMETOWN HERO *Salute*

Weekend highlights celebration of Air Guard

By Tech Sgt. Wendy Yada, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – Officially, the Hometown Heroes Salute here on June 12 included a ceremony that recognized the service of more than 600 Nevada Guard Airmen, their families and the community for their contributions in support of global Air Force operations since Sept. 11, 2001.

Unofficially, the Hometown Heroes Salute entailed numerous events and activities throughout the weekend of June 11-13 that essentially became a celebration of the Air Guard in Nevada.

Airmen participating in the ceremony included those who deployed for more than 30 consecutive days between Sept. 11, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2008. Recognized Airmen received a framed letter and coin from Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the National Guard Bureau. ■



With his daughter, Eva Shipley, 9, and brother, retired Army Col. Claude Shipley, on hand to help celebrate the occasion, Chief Master Sgt. Todd Shipley, superintendent of the 152nd Security Forces Squadron, marked his retirement June 12. Shipley worked at the Nevada Air National Guard Base for more than 31 years.



The focus of the weekend transitioned to the local diamond when Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Tech. Sgt. Lewis Roberts threw out the opening pitch at the Reno Aces Military Appreciation Night on June 11. Nevada Airmen and Soldiers purchased about 1,100 discounted tickets for the game and accounted for 20 percent of the game's attendance.



Lt. Col. Kevin Knuf, right, began the weekend by receiving the Bronze Star Medal from 152nd Airlift Wing Commander Col. David Snyder on June 11. Knuf received the award for his achievements while engaged in ground operations against the enemy while deployed at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from July 2009 through January. Knuf oversaw more than 60 airfield projects worth more than \$350 million during his deployment.



Tech Sgt. Dave Price, right, of the 152nd Intelligence Squadron, accepted congratulations from Brig. Gen. Robert Fitch as he received his Hometown Heroes Salute on June 12. The salute was the first at the Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno. During the salute, more than 600 Nevada Airmen who supported operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and other peacekeeping operations around the globe since Sept. 11, 2001, were recognized.



Rapp assumes command of 232nd

Lt. Col. Warren Rapp, right, receives the guidon of the 232nd Operations Squadron from Col. Terrance Fornof, director of the joint staff of the Nevada Guard, to signify his accession of the squadron's command at Creech Air Force Base on June 25. The 232nd Operations Squadron specializes in the unmanned aerial systems mission field and flies both Predator and Reaper aircraft. Photo: Staff Sgt. Rebecca Palmer

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Latest rap on the G-RAP: Soldiers can still earn 2K

By Maj. John Strahan
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – Recruiting isn't just for recruiters. Every Soldier and Airman should always be searching for capable new personnel to fill our ranks.

Ensuring the personnel mission capabilities of Nevada Guard units and squadrons is definitely one benefit of recruiting. But recruiting can also be lucrative for individuals, as the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program pays up to \$2,000 for each person successfully put into uniform.

(G-RAP is currently available only for the Army National Guard Soldiers. The Air National Guard suspended its G-RAP in February because it is currently above its strength requirements.)

Many Soldiers can remember when they spoke with a friend, relative or coworker about joining the National Guard. Some even made a first introduction to a recruiter. Army Guard Soldiers can earn extra income for doing the exact same thing by becoming a recruiting assistant in the G-RAP.

Recruiting assistants have several responsibilities. The RA must identify potential Soldiers, arrange and participate in meetings with recruiters, and mentor the potential recruit through the enlistment process. Most importantly, recruiting assistants share their own military experiences with potential Soldiers in their community.

After the enlistment process is completed, the RA continues to mentor the new Soldier until he or she completes basic training and becomes fully integrated into their unit.

Army Guard recruiter Sgt. Rick Samson said the G-RAP program is effective and led to multiple enlistments in his recruiting region.

"When the Soldiers are happy within their units, they'll talk it up to their friends, and that will lead to interest in the Guard," said Samson, 41, who has been recruiting in Reno for three years. "Soldier involvement combined with the sharing of personal experiences makes the recruiting assistant program work."

Cash awards paid through the G-RAP are not just for new enlistees. For example, an RA may also earn money for helping to put prior service Soldiers back into the Guard. The program also pays an RA for potential officers who sign an enlistment contract.

Upon a verified enlistment, the RA receives an initial \$1,000 payment. The RA receives a second \$1,000 payment when the new Soldier ships for basic training. An RA earns a \$2,000 payment for a prior-service contract signing.

Becoming an RA is a simple process. An Army Guard Soldier can sign up for the G-RAP online and take a required short course. Upon completion of the course, the applicant is certified as an RA. The program is also open to retirees. Certain restrictions apply; for example, full-time technicians are not eligible for the program.

For information, go to www.guardrecruitingassistant.com. ■



Sgt. Rick Samson, a Nevada Army Guard recruiter, discusses the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program with a Soldier at the Plumb Lane recruiting office. Soldiers participating in G-RAP can earn up to \$2,000 for each new Soldier they help enlist in the National Guard. Photo: Maj. John Strahan

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152nd Security Forces commander – 17 deployments and still counting

By Master Sgt. Gloria Odion
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – After his 17 deployments, one might wonder if Lt. Col. Mark Hall carries a personal locator beacon just to verify where he is in the world.

Hall, the 152nd Security Forces Squadron commander, has recorded among the most deployments since Sept. 11, 2001, of any Airman in the Nevada Air Guard. He has many anecdotes surrounding his deployments, but some really stand out, such as the time he flew out of Cuba on board a C-141 and an access hatch blew off the aircraft.

“As we were climbing out from Cuba and headed for our final destination, an access hatch on the side of the plane came off and blew into the cargo compartment of the jet,” Hall said. “I remember thinking ‘Oh (shoot)! Where’s the loadmaster? Why doesn’t she notice there is a chunk missing from the side of the plane? Why doesn’t she notice how (darn) loud it got in here all of a sudden? Wow – it’s really bright blue outside!’

“A cop near the load finally unbelted himself and tugged on her sleeve. She about jumped out of her skin when she saw what had happened. She immediately began talking with the pilot on the intercom. We felt the plane slow down and level off. Then she walked back to the ‘hole’ and strong-armed the hatch into place. The plane accelerated and started climbing again – with a whole load of cops wondering just what else would come off of the airplane en route to Southwest Asia.”

The Nevada Guard response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 also marked a significant deployment for Hall. He said the deployment stood out because the Airmen worked closely with their Army Guard counterparts, and he saw the tremendous difference the National Guard made for New Orleans residents.

“The set-up was good,” Hall said. “We developed some positive relationships with our military police counterparts. We were able to get the job done. It was a true team effort.”

Hall said there are several reasons he deploys so often. “First and foremost, I am a cop, and this is what I do. Cops go to crummy places, don’t get much sleep,



Lt. Col. Mark Hall, right, greets Girl Scouts at the Nevada Air National Guard aerial port in Reno in 2009 before beginning yet another deployment. Hall is one of the Nevada Air Guard’s busiest Airmen, having recorded 17 deployments since Sept. 11, 2001.

Photo: 2nd Lt. Jason Yuhasz

get dirty and grimy, but do the job well. That is what being a security forces member is about.”

Hall said it’s very important that Airmen in the squadron see their commander deploying with the troops. Although he may not always be able to stay for six-month deployments because of his role on base, he often deploys for short rotations so his squadron knows he is aware of deployment challenges and issues.

Hall believes the squadron often receives deployment requests due to its well-earned good reputation.

“The more experience we receive, the more tools we have for our tool belts,” Hall said. “The self confidence gained by completing a mission requiring precise detail in a hostile environment while under tremendous scrutiny can’t be surpassed.”

Hall entered active duty with the Air Force in 1994 after completing Reserve Officer Training Corps courses at San Jose State University in California. When he was discharged from the Air Force six years later, he became an instructor at the Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy in Carson City.

He then met a Nevada Guard Airman who alerted him to a job opportunity. That’s when his adventurous exploration of a world in strife began.

When Hall began his Air Guard career, he thought he would become a pilot and attended flight school. He soon realized flying jets was not for him.

“Math was not my forte,” Hall said. “The hurry-up math involved with computing the final turning speed for a T-38 based upon how much fuel was on board didn’t thrill me.”

He then switched from flight school to security forces – officer technical training, and refined many of his civilian skills developed at the academy in Carson City. His choice turned out to be a good one, as he is both the squadron commander and the Air Guard’s antiterrorism officer.

Hall said his ongoing deployments are a reflection of how he feels about the United States.

“I want to serve my country,” Hall said. “I like the fact I can say ‘When it comes to my country, I am all in!’” ■



Sgt. Ramon Branchcomb of the 150th Maintenance Company in Carson City became the first Nevada Guard Soldier to participate in the Warrior Games May 10-14 when he competed in the 10-meter unsupported rifle competition in Colorado Springs, Colo. He finished in seventh place. Photo: Courtesy of Branchcomb family

150th Soldier finishes 7th at inaugural Warrior Games

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Sgt. Ramon Branchcomb of the 150th Maintenance Company in Carson City became the first Nevada Guard Soldier to participate in the Warrior Games May 10-14 when he competed in the 10-meter unsupported rifle competition in Colorado Springs, Colo.

He nearly became the first Nevada Soldier to medal as well, as he finished 7th out of the 25 marksmen in the upper body injury category event. That was an improvement on his 15th place in the pre-qualification round that qualified him for the finals.

“It was a very intense competition, especially considering there were several Army and Marine snipers,” Branchcomb said.

About 200 wounded servicemen and military veterans competed in the event. The U.S. Olympic Committee hosted the games and events include shooting, swimming, archery, track, discus, shot put, cycling, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

According to Branchcomb, competitors in the marksmanship event had to use iron sights and shoot at a target the size of a 50 cent piece. All shooters had 30 minutes to shoot 20 rounds. That time limit included pulling old targets, placing new targets, reloading the rifle, aiming and firing.

Branchcomb has an upper body injury and has been recovering at the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash. ■

Casey earns Reno-Tahoe Open Pro-Am slot

RENO – Lt. Col. Shawn Casey recorded the highlight of his amateur golfing career with his win at the Nevada National Guard Reno-Tahoe Open Qualifying Tournament on May 10 at Hidden Valley Country Club that gave him a berth in the Reno-Tahoe Open's Pro-Am event in mid-July.

This year's theme for the RTO was “A Salute to the Troops.” As a result, four military service members were invited to play in the Pro-Am. The May 10 tournament was the qualifier for the northern Nevada participant; other qualifiers will take place in southern Nevada, central California and northern California.

Casey, a surface maintenance officer who works in Carson City, shot a score of 80 to lead the field of 21 military golfers.

Other top scores were recorded by Master Sgt. Scott Jasper (87), Chief Master Sgt. Joe Martini (89), and Master Sgts. Tregg Jackson and Ken Riley (91).

The Pro-Am was set for Montreaux Golf and Country Club on July 12 and Arrowcreek Country Club on July 13. Both are in Reno.

Casey's final result will appear in the fall issue of *Battle Born*. ■



Lt. Col. Shawn Casey sinks a 22-yard putt at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Reno on May 10 en route to earning a spot in the Reno-Tahoe Pro-Am Golf Tournament. Casey shot a score of 80 to beat 21 other military golfers attempting to earn the coveted spot in the July tournament. Photo: Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell

Marksmanship team resumes competition

RENO – After a 15-year hiatus, the Nevada National Guard marksmanship competition resumed May 21 at the Washoe County Shooting Facility. Twenty-seven Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen entered the contest to prove that they were among the best in the state.

Spc. Frank Nash from the 609th Sapper unit in Fallon took the first place award and was named Top Gun.

The top 20 Soldiers and Airmen from the competition received the Governor's Top 20 tab, a state award worn on the uniforms of the recipients.

The top shooters will fill the team set to go to the regionals in Salt Lake City, Utah, this summer to compete against all other participating states. Nevada is also sending the top marksmen to the Winston P. Wilson matches in Arkansas. ■

2010 Adjutant General's State Marksmanship Match Results

TOP GUN:

- 1 – Spc. Frank Nash
- 2 – Pfc. Christopher Bushey

COMBAT RIFLE EXCELLENCE IN COMPETITION:

- 1 – Maj. Roger Capps, 184
- 2 – Staff Sgt. Elmo Rayner, 182
- 3 – Tech Sgt. Gary Guzicki, 171

EXERCISE RI 302 REFLECTIVE FIRE:

- 1 – Bushey, 164
- 2 – Nash, 153
- 3 – Master Sgt. Gerald Dwyer, 150

COMBAT PISTOL EXCELLENCE IN COMPETITION:

- 1 – Capps, 188
- 2 – Guzicki, 168
- 3 – Bushey, 157

GENERAL GEORGE PATTON COMBAT PISTOL TEAM EXERCISE

- 1 – Rayner, Sgt. Paul Rivera, Nash, Bushey, 617
- 2 – 2nd Lt. Aaron Washington, Dwyer, Master Sgt. Paul Hinen, Guzicki, 504
- 3 – Master Sgt. Jeffery Wilkinson, Staff Sgt. Christopher Rozario, Staff Sgt. Philip Risi, Sgt. Scott Smith, 488

Marathon team goes the distance at NGB race

LINCOLN, Neb. – The flat Nebraska course looked ideal for a fast time. But the distance of 26.2 miles took its toll on the Nevada Guard marathon squad at the annual Lincoln/National Guard marathon here May 2 as the team could muster only 37th place in the team competition that featured the best National Guard runners from across the nation.

Master Sgt. Scott Malin, 47, was out with the leaders at the halfway point but “hit the wall” near the 20-mile point. Nevada's top finisher, he finished in 132nd place in 3 hours, 57 minutes.

Tech. Sgt. Roy Harvey, 47, had one of the best performances of the day. Invited to participate in the first-time marathon runner category, Harvey ran an impressive 4:41 in his first attempt at the distance.

Staff Sgt. Paul Duncan, 26, was the third and final scorer for the team. Duncan, a recruiter from Las Vegas, ducked under the five hour mark in 4:59 to complete Nevada scoring.

For information on the 2011 National Guard marathon qualifying standards, contact Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka at (775) 887-7250. ■

GOVERNOR'S TOP TWENTY TAB RECIPIENTS:

- 1 – Nash
- 2 – Bushey
- 3 – Rayner
- 4 – Rivera
- 5 – Guzicki
- 6 – Capps
- 7 – Dwyer
- 8 – Hinen
- 9 – Risi
- 10 – Rozario
- 11 – Sgt. Richard Rohweder
- 12 – Chief Warrant Officer Charles Powell
- 13 – Smith
- 14 – Washington
- 15 – Spc. Benjamin Rogers
- 16 – Candidate Mathew Shilk
- 17 – Spc. Jeremy Dries
- 18 – Sgt. Jeremy Michael
- 19 – Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Backus
- 20 – Sgt. 1st Class Leon Ferran

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 SGT James Cyr 1/189th Av HHC Det 1
 Maj Derek Gardner 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 CMSgt Kenneth Gray 152nd Medical Grp
 MSgt Shanon Hampton 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Donald Harvey 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Joseph Henle 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Robert Hoadley 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Todd Hudson 152nd Operations Grp
 CPT Matthew Jonkey 3/140th S&S
 Capt Evan Kirkwood 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Robert Martinez 152nd Operations Grp
 LtCol Joann Meacham 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Sgt Michael Miller Jr B Co, 422nd Sig Bn
 LtCol Bartley O'Toole 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Kristoffer Pfalmer 192nd Airlift Sqdn
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 SFC Joe Sherych 92nd CST

CMSgt Todd Shipley 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
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 SPC Mario Gonzalez 485th MP Co
 SSG Trevor Hassell HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
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 MSG Edward Rael 3/140th S&S
 SPC Joseph Vandyne 593rd Transp Co
 SPC Michael Vargas 240th Engineer Co
 SGT Alfonso Zafra JFHQ

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 2Lt Leslie Drew 152nd Medical Grp
 LtCol Donald Harvey 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Gregory Hsu 152nd Medical Grp
 SrA Katie Rimbey 152 Maint Sqdn

Army Achievement Medal



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 SSG Paul Duncan Jr NVARNG RSP
 SSG Michelle Tucay NVARNG Medical Det
 SSG Ines Ventura JFHQ

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 SGT Richard Dalton HHT, 221st Cav
 SPC Terrence McFarland HHT, 221st Cav
 SPC Raheem Plazz 137th MP Det
 SPC Alan Potter HHT, 221st Cav
 SPC Beatriz Ramosflores 485th MP Co
 SSG Louis Toncks NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SPC Michael Vargas 240th Engineer Co
 SPC Christopher Williams 100th Quartermaster Co

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 SFC Joseph Loader 1/168th MEDEVAC
 SSG Epifanio Rodarte 1/189th Aviation
 CW3 Aaron Southerland 1/168th MEDEVAC
 SSG Scott Taylor 1/168th MEDEVAC
 SGT Thomas Vonbargen 1/168th MEDEVAC
 CPT Andrew Wagner 1/168th MEDEVAC
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ENLISTMENTS

152nd Airlift Wing
Nicholas De La Rosa

**152nd
Civil Engineer Sqdn**
Andrew Edgington
Charles Jorgensen

**152nd
Intelligence Sqdn**
Michelle Barras
Jenna Swymeler
Zane Walker

**152nd Logistics
Readiness Sqdn**
Ryan Burkhardt
Christopher Disuanco
Joe Franzen
Chad Gogel

**152nd
Maintenance Sqdn**
Ronald Bahre
Christopher Crossley
Louis Davis
Steven Diehl
Russell Garafola
Nicole Main
Joseph Ramirez
Jami Smith
Jeffrey Stark

**152nd Maintenance
Operation Flt**
Megan Ebinger
Rusty Leflar

152nd Medical Grp
Dion Richardson

**152nd Operations
Support Flt**
Jay Nieto

192nd Airlift Sqdn
Benjamin Beaubien

17th Special Troops Bn
Alesha Erdmann

17th Sustainment Bde
Troy Anderson Jr
Christopher Bernal
Blossom Camacho
Scott Cline
Amy Seader
Ricardo Smaltino

72nd MP Co
Christina Ayoub

Watcharakorn Chittangtrong
John Dekoning
Michael Demilio
James Douglas
Bryan Fontaine
Nicholas Galbiso
Abigail Gatdula
James Green
Darius Harper
Honey Houston
Chelsea Neill
Gary Olivas Jr
Heather Owens
Michael Pugh
Chrystal Rupert
Kenneth Stauffer
Hans Vonzedtwitz
Thomas Weingardt

**100th
Quartermaster Co**
Randy Casimiro
Rhianon Hayes
Rose Hemsley
Hieu Nguyen
Brandon Petrykowski
Sean Phillipson
Diego Reyes
Crystal Suberville

3/140th S&S
Shawn Smith

**150th
Maintenance Co**
Peggy Au
Larry Clawson Jr
Tonya Kee
Eduardo Medina
Maribel Tadeo
James Till
James Trimble

1/168th MEDEVAC
Anthony Foley
James Delcastillo

1/189th Aviation
Robert Graves
James Morrison
Arthur Salaices IV
Jeremy Sawyer

HHT, 221st Cav
Charles Brotherson
Adrian Espinoza
Daniel Ibarra
Stefen Martinez
James Nelson
Bryan Pendley
Benjamin Roundtree
Hector Ruiz Jr

**I Troop,
221st Cavalry**
Anton Root
Andrew Thompson

**K Troop,
221st Cavalry**
Tyler George
Jeffrey Lavender
Michael Mock
Eric Newson
Ian Niechaj
Vincent Schneider
David Tangren

1/221st Cavalry
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Joseph Cole
Marc Cunningham
Jarvis Eugenio
Mathew Kearns
Brett Lawrence Jr
Matthew Lyster
David Mosse
Joseph Parker

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Engineer Co**
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Michael Barstow
Michael Connors
Justin David
Alan Lin
Andrew Lum

HQ 421st RTI
Frank Digiovanni
Jeremy Michael

B Co, 422 Sig Bn
Casandra Bosse
Kweayon Clark
Robert Dawson
Cancino Delacruz
Christina Fleming
Michael Gardner
Kimberly Lunbeck
Jessica Menendez
Megan Mitchell
PatrickTorrez

C Co, 422nd Sig Bn
Michael Alarcon
Giovanniti Love
Dennis Mitchell
William Morris
Joshua Ross
James Williams

HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Kristina Little
Sunny Mok

485th MP Co
David Bridges
Adam Comish
Sean Eggerstedt
Steven Frankfurt
Scott Hoffman
David Kille Jr
Allyson Stoufflet

**593rd
Transportation Co**
Steven Lawson
Mark Punzalan

**Det 1, 593rd
Transportation Co**
Aaron Balen
Lee Davisboston

**Det 2, 593rd
Transportation Co**
Michael Biers
Kevin Gray
Martin Janette
Gerald Jones
James Riley III

609th Engineer Co
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Trey Dufresne
Joshua Eggerstedt
James Fikkers

Marcus Hubred
Brandon Hurst
Jason Kilgore
Tyler Macaluso
Roy Randall
Anthony Reddick Jr
Bryce Reeder
Chad Reese

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Sust Spt Bn**
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Manuel Donato
Sarah Evett
Sean Holm
John Thead
Tyresha White

**777th
Engineer Det**
Kandis Mcmillan
Mario Navarivera

**777th
Engineer Co**
Tobin Blank
Jared Bushell
Roxana Contreras
Esdras Cruz
Mark Garcia
Doyeun Kim
Kerry Marriott

Jacob Miller
Anthony Plantone
Matthew Scarine
Eric Woods

JFHQ
Richard Ferguson

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Amber Netz

Det 2, NVARNG RSP
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William Constanza
Thomas Edwards
Dillon Hibler
Kevin Murray
William Orito Jr
Eric Otero
Raul Rodriguezpalacios
Devin Slayden
Martrell Webster

NVARNG ADT
Joseph Cole
Jason Malcom

NVARNG Medical Det
Brionta Ayala
Ethel Llanes
Robert Margeson
Mayflor Sierra

RETIREMENTS

SGT Gary Ahnefeld Jr 593rd Trans Co
LtCol Christopher Anastassatos 192nd Airlift Sqdn
SGM Scott Baker HHT, 221st Cav
SFC William Bloomfield 137th Military Police
MAJ Dennis Fivecoat 92nd Civil Support Team
CSM Glenn Guy HHT, 221st Cav
LtCol Donald Harvey 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt Brian McBeth 152nd Medical Grp
SGT Michael Miller Jr 422nd Sig Bn
MSgt William Packer 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSG Robert Planeta 421st RTI
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